

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A method of managing cookies in a data processing system, said method comprising the steps of:

a user agent requesting a resource associated with a cookie from a content provider;

receiving a privacy policy associated with said cookie; and,

said user agent transmitting, in response to reception of said privacy policy associated with said cookie, a cookie-policy receipt to said content provider, said cookie-policy receipt based only on a user decision, said user decision specifying whether a user associated with said user agent accepts that said content provider provides said cookie to user equipment associated with said user agent.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of including said cookie-policy receipt in a resource fetch message transmitted from said user agent to said content provider.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said user decision is determined by:

said user agent comparing said privacy policy with a user preference, said user preference specifying a cookie privacy policy accepted by said user; and

said user agent generating said cookie-policy receipt based on said comparison.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein, if said received privacy policy does not match said user preference, said method further comprising the steps of:

said user agent presenting said received privacy policy for said user on said user equipment; and

said user agent generating, in response to a user-input signal, said cookie-policy receipt.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said user decision is determined by

said user agent presenting said received privacy policy for said user on said user equipment; and

said user agent generating, in response to a user-input signal, said cookie-policy receipt.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of authenticating said cookie-policy receipt with an authentication key associated with said user agent.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein, if said cookie-policy receipt specifies that said user does not accept that said content provider provides said cookie to said user equipment, said method comprising the step of removing said cookie associated with said requested resource from a storage memory in said user equipment.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein, if said cookie-policy receipt specifies that said user does not accept that said content provider provides said cookie to said user equipment, said method comprising the step of ignoring a cookie request command transmitted from said content provider to said user agent.

33. (Previously Presented) A method of providing cookies in a data processing system, wherein a user agent requests a resource associated with a cookie from a content provider, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a resource request, wherein the resource is associated with a cookie from said content provider;

transmitting a privacy policy associated with said cookie to said user agent;

receiving a cookie-policy receipt based only on a user decision from said user agent; and,

said content provider providing, in response to reception of said cookie-policy receipt from said user agent, said cookie to user equipment associated with said user agent if said cookie-policy receipt specifies that a user associated with said user agent accepts that said content provider provides said cookie to said user equipment.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein said cookie-policy receipt is received in a resource fetch message transmitted from said user agent.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein, if said cookie-policy receipt specifies that said user accepts that said content provider provides said cookie to said user equipment, said method comprising the step of providing said cookie-associated resource.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein said cookie-policy receipt is generated based on a comparison between said privacy policy and user preference that specifies a cookie privacy policy accepted by said user.

37. (Previously Presented) A data processing system for requesting a resource associated with a cookie from a content provider, said data processing system comprising:

a user agent, said user agent comprising:

means for receiving a privacy policy associated with said cookie; and,

means for transmitting, in response to reception of said privacy policy associated with said cookie, a cookie-policy receipt to said content provider, said cookie-policy receipt based only on a user decision, said user decision specifying whether a user associated with said user agent accepts that said content provider provides said cookie to user equipment associated with said user agent.

38. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 37, wherein said transmitting means includes said cookie-policy receipt in a resource fetch message transmitted to said content provider.

39. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 37, comprising means for determining the user decision, said means for determining further comprising:

means for comparing said privacy policy with a user preference, said user preference specifying a cookie privacy policy accepted by said user; and,

means for generating, connected to said comparing means, said cookie-policy receipt as a function of said comparing of said privacy policy with said user preference.

40. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 39, further comprising means for presenting said received privacy policy for said user on said user equipment if said privacy policy does not match said user preference, said generating means being adapted for generating said cookie-policy receipt in response to a user input signal.

41. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 37, comprising means for determining the user decision, said means for determining further comprising:

means for presenting said privacy policy for said user on said user equipment;
and

means for generating said cookie-policy receipt in response to a user input signal.

42. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 37, further comprising means for authenticating said cookie-policy receipt with an authentication key associated with said user agent.

43. (Previously Presented) The data processing system according to claim 37, further comprising means for removing a cookie associated with said requested resource from a storage in said user equipment if said cookie-policy receipt specifies that said user does not accept that said content provider provides said cookie to said user equipment.

44. (Previously Presented) A content provider apparatus adapted for providing a requested resource associated with a cookie to a user agent in a data processing system, said content provider apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a resource request from said user agent;

means for transmitting, in response to said resource request from said user agent, a privacy policy associated with said cookie to said user agent;

means for receiving a cookie-policy receipt based only on a user decision; and,

means for providing, in response to said cookie-policy receipt transmitted from said user agent, said cookie to said user equipment associated with said user agent if said cookie-policy receipt specifies that a user associated with said user agent accepts that said content provider provides said cookie to said user equipment.

45. (Previously Presented) The content provider apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said cookie-policy receipt is received in a resource fetch message transmitted from said user agent.

46. (Previously Presented) The content provider apparatus according to claim 44, further comprising means for providing said cookie-associated resource if said cookie-policy receipt specifies that said user accepts that said content provider provides said cookie to said user equipment.

47. (Previously Presented) The content provider apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said cookie-policy receipt is generated based on a comparison between said privacy policy and user preference that specifies a cookie privacy policy accepted by said user.

48. (Cancelled).

* * *